EMERSON COLLEGE
BOSTON

June 6 and 7, 1968
Eight-thirty o'clock

COLLEGE THEATRE

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
in Cooperation with the Department of Speech

Presents

BRECHT ON BRECHT

Directed by June Hamblin Mitchell

SETTING DESIGNED BY
Dennis Dougherty

LIGHTING DESIGNED BY
Bob Scheeler

Cast

Richard Christenson
Harvey Debigare
Judith Frampton
Darlene Giraitis
J. Dennis Green
Douglas McKeown
Ellen Strasberg

ACT I

1. On Brecht
2. On Poetry and Playwriting
3. On Life in Germany Under Hitler
4. On War

ACT II

1. On Exile
2. On the Family
3. On Questions on Life
4. On Man's Help to Man
   Epilogue

THERE WILL BE A TEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN THE ACTS

Production Staff

Stage Manager ..... Ralph Maffongelli
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Peter Nierenberg
Master of Sound ..... Ron White
Master Electrician ..... Barbara Hering
Electrician ..... Ken Graham
Assistant to the Lighting Designer ..... Cliff Welch
Projection ..... Barbara Burten, Catherine Meoli
Pianist ..... Douglas French

Production Notes

Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956), German poet, playwright,and theatrical producer, was anti-capitalist, anti-bourgeois in politics and in literature. One of the leading exponents of the dramatic effect of alienation, his poetry blends a richness of imagery with an austere, didactic language in which he deliberately attempts to get away from smooth easy rhythms and creates "a heightened language . . . without rhyme in irregular rhythms."

Brecht's experiences during World War I made him a fanatical pacifist. An exile from the Nazi government from 1933, he came to the United States in 1941 where he wrote most of his plays and much of his most famous poetry. An avowed Marxist, in 1941 he was brought before the House Un-American Activities Committee for investigation and subsequently returned to East Berlin.

Although denigrated in the West for his Communist opinions, Brecht was often suspect in eastern Europe because of his unorthodox aesthetic theories. He was awarded a Stalin Peace Prize in 1955, but his work was never produced or published in the Soviet Union. Nonetheless, after his death his plays dominated the European theatre of the 1950's and '60's.

This production is an arrangement of Brecht's poetry and song lyrics chosen and grouped to present his own personal ideas on mankind in general and specifically on life in Germany under Adolph Hitler. The tape recordings used are authentic reproductions of sections of the proceedings of the unfortunate HUAC investigation made on Thursday, October 30, 1947.

All music used in the performance was arranged by Douglas French. The music for "Mother Courage's Song" was composed by Buzz Podewell for the Emerson College Theatre Department production of *Mother Courage* under the direction of Dr. Thomas Hass. Music for "The Ballad of the Soldier's Wife" and "The Song of the Moldau" was composed for this production by Robert Vogel.

Appreciation to Mrs. Barbara Matheson for her help on the costumes and to Dr. Kelly Danford and Mr. Robert Pettitt for their advice and practical assistance on the musical arrangements.